

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: SECTION I (10) UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

REF: BUCHAREST 3507

1. AFTER REVIEWING PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DELEGATION AS GIVEN IN REFTEL, WITH CONFERENCE BOARD AND ROMANIAN EMBOFF MITRAN, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES FOCUS OF VISIT NEEDS SHARPENING SOMEWHAT. WHILE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF EXCHANGES CAN BE TOUCHED ON IN PASSING DURING TALKS BETWEEN DELEGATION AND MIN ED OFFICIALS, LOGISTICAL NUTS AND BOLTS ARE INCIDENTAL TO REAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WHICH WE SEE AS OPPORTUNITY FOR US UNIVERSITY HEADS TO INFORM THEMSELVES ABOUT ROMANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AS WELL AS FOR THEIR ROMANIAN COUNTERPARTS TO GET BETTER PICTURE OF US HIGHER EDUCATION.

2. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE BELIEVE PROTOCOL VISITS AND SIGHT-SEEING SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM. FYI: DELEGATES HAVE STRESSED THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF THEY FELT THAT VISIT WERE MORE OF A JUNKET. END FYI.

3. WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING FORMAT SUGGESTED BY EMBOFF MITRAN
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FOR TALKS IN BUCHAREST: AFTER PROTOCOL CALLS ON MIN ED,

OTHER GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS ON FIRST DAY, US DELEGATION SHOULD MEET WITH RECTORS, DEANS, HEADS OF

DEPARTMENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENTS IN BUCHAREST FOR INFORMAL COLLOQUIUM ON TOPIC SUCH AS COMPARISON OF US AND ROMANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS.

4. IN ADDITION TO COLLOQUIUM, LECTURES COULD BE GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION TO LARGER AUDIENCE, INCLUDING STUDENTS, ON TOPICS SUCH AS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITY AND PRODUCTION ECONOMY, AND ON PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE DOCTORS GROSH AND ODEGAARD WILL BE WILLING DELIVER SUCH LECTURES.

5. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS IN BUCHAREST, GROUP COULD TRAVEL TO SEVERAL OTHER UNIVERSITY CITIES FOR MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY MEMBERS ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE QUERYING MIN ED FOR LIST OF APPROPRIATE TOPICS FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS. AFTER THESE VISITS, GROUP WOULD RETURN TO BUCHAREST FOR WRAP-UP SESSION WITH PARTICIPANTS IN FIRST COLLOQUIUM.

6. EMBASSY COMMENTS RE ABOVE PROPOSALS REQUESTED.

7. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS DELEGATION ARRIVE BUCHAREST AFTERNOON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3 SO CAN BE RESTED AND READY FOR TALKS FOLLOWING MONDAY. DELEGATION ANXIOUS KNOW ABOUT HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS BUCHAREST AND WHETHER THEY NEED VISAS OR CAN GET THEM AT AIRPORT. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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